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Imagery analysis report

Soviet Brigade Activity, Cuba (S)

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SOVIET BRIGADE ACTIVITY, CUBA (S)

1. (S/D) The Soviet brigade in Cuba is currently engaged in field training at the San Pedro Military Training Area ([] Figure 1).

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2. (S/D) Initial occupation of the Soviet brigade bivouac area at San Pedro was first observed on []. The Soviet bivouac area was subsequently imaged on []. The bivouac area and equipment park were completely established on [] no maneuver activity had taken place.

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3. (S/D) On [] the units observed included elements of three motorized rifle battalions, one tank company, a multiple rocket launcher battalion, and six platoons of ZSU-23/4 self-propelled antiaircraft (SPAA) guns. Additionally, four possible SA-9 transporter-erector-launchers (TELs) were observed with the ZSU-23/4 platoons. The elements of the three motorized rifle battalions included three 122mm D-30 howitzer batteries, three BRDM-2 antitank guided missile batteries, and three 120mm mortar batteries.

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4. (S/D) All units observed on [] have been observed in past Soviet brigade exercises at San Pedro with the exception of the possible SA-9 TELs and the ZSU-23/4 SPAA gun platoons. The ZSU-23/4 platoons were involved in training at Alquizar Military Training Area [] and Mariel Training Center and AAA School Granma Base ([] during the last Soviet brigade exercise in February 1980. Although this is the first observation of Soviet brigade SPAA equipment at San Pedro, one similarity to the February exercise at Mariel exists. At San Pedro, one of the six platoons of ZSU-23/4 had been established in a separate bivouac area adjacent to the tank company (Figure 2). The precedent for a separate ZSU-23/4 bivouac area was set in February at Mariel. At that time, the single ZSU-23/4 platoon was assessed as being Cuban on the basis of its physical separation from the other Soviet ZSU-23/4s. However, the proximity of the isolated ZSU-23/4 platoon at San Pedro to the tank company suggests that this single platoon may be the ZSU platoon assigned to the tank battalion of the Soviet brigade. Because the tank company at San Pedro consisted of nine tanks instead of the seven tanks seen in Cuban tank companies, the company is assessed as being Soviet.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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